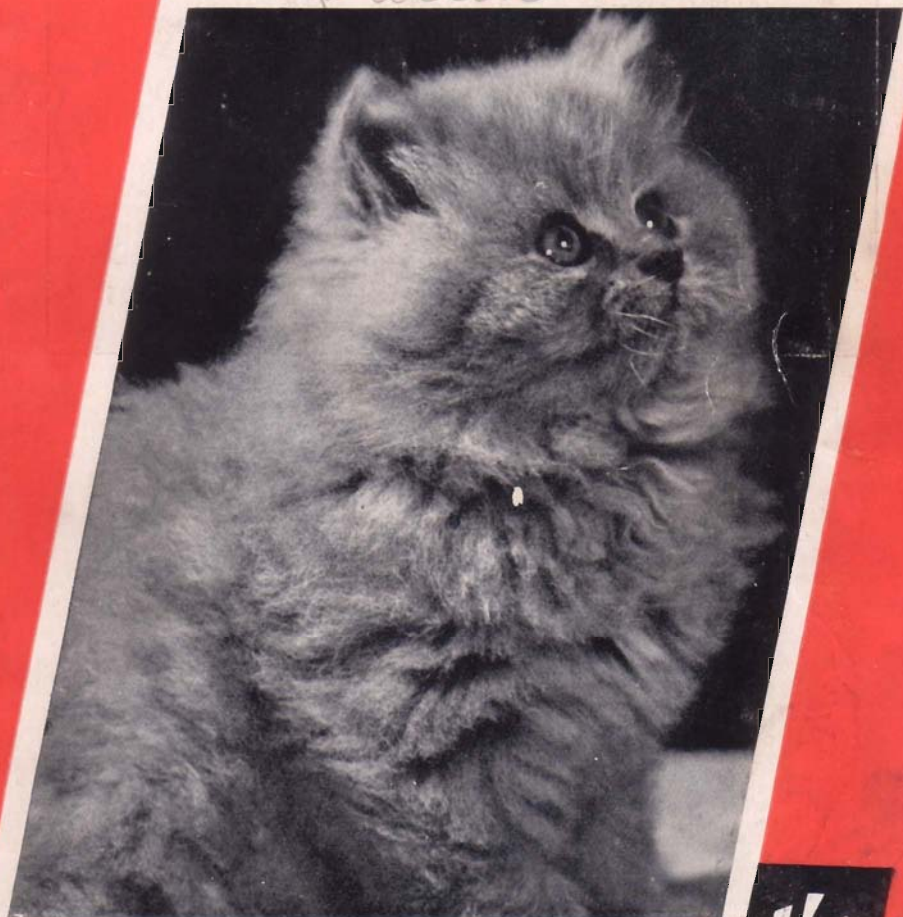


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OCTOBER 1949

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Our Cats

AUTHORITATIVE • INSTRUCTIVE • ENTERTAINING

VOL. I No. 10

OCTOBER 1949

LOOKING FORWARD

I DON'T know whether you have noticed it, too, but time has seemed jet propelled during the last few weeks. Already the Show Season is well under way. The Blue Longhair and the Siamese fans have had their big day; the Birmingham and Croydon Shows will be over before our next issue, and soon the newspapers will be warning us that the seasonal shopping days remaining are becoming alarmingly few in number.

Editorially, we have our gaze fixed even farther ahead. We are looking round the corner into 1950. I suppose there is nothing like a little forward planning to put wings on the calendar!

Enough progress has already been made with our next year's programme for me to be able to disclose that a whole heap of interesting new features and pictures will be offered for your entertainment and, I hope, instruction. Indeed, if our present rate of progress is maintained, it may be possible for me to consider some substantial addition to our size some time next year.

This month we print the first of a series of articles on genetics by that popular authority Mr. Albert C. Jude. Next month we shall present the first article in another fine series dealing with the various breeds of cats. Mrs. Duncan Hindley will start the ball rolling with her favourite subject, Siamese.

These are just an indication of "things (good) to come."

EDITOR

 **GENERAL INFORMATION:** The address for all communications relating to editorial and advertisements in OUR CATS is 4 CARLTON MANSIONS, CLAPHAM ROAD, LONDON, S.W.9 (Macaulay 1462).

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Colour Inheritance

We are pleased to add to our list of notable contributors the name of Albert C. Jude and to announce that he has prepared a series of short articles (the first of which opens on this page) exclusively for the readers of OUR CATS.

Mr. Jude has made a special study of animal genetics, particularly colour inheritance, for many years and he is widely accepted as an interesting and authoritative writer on the science. His research has entailed the keeping of large studs of mice, which are of high value because they provide quick breeding results. These studs have been used especially for the study of colour inheritance and sex linkage and for the study of inherited health factors. Detailed work on sterility has also been carried out. This work has brought Mr. Jude into contact with several Doctors of Science and well-known geneticists.

For about 25 years, Mr. Jude has also been a popular figure in various official positions in different branches of the Cat Fancy. He was Chairman for 21 years of the Notts Fur Fanciers and it was from this Club that the Notts and Derby Cat Club was started. He gave yeoman service to the N. and D.C.C., first as Chairman and later as Hon. Secretary and he also ran the first post-war Championship Show which helped to put the Club in a strong financial position.

THERE is in all of us, at some time or other, an urge for something new. It is natural that we should wish to try an idea which is fresh to us, even though we may know others have done the same thing before. Such ideas fascinate, and it is the sense of wonderment which urges us on.

This desire to experiment is not only present with beginners. It stimulates old hands alike. I cannot believe that the novice wants to revolutionise. He is justified by his own outlook, and then, when he has achieved, he will be even the more anxious to follow up by the known and accepted methods.

The wish for experiment by the more advanced breeder is a little different. He has, by his experience and the gathered experience of others, gained a knowledge



The Author.

which enables him to apply in a more definite manner. Putting one's ideas into action is not a fault in itself, but it is unfair to pass on to others at random the results of the practice, unless it is known for sure there will be no upsetting factor through so doing.

Time, in its steady and endless march, brings problems and complexities in the world of life. Everything is in the process of "becoming," and in the process something new arises. That is evolution.

We think of evolution as a progressive movement. But it isn't always so. The something new may be something better, but it may be something not so good. So evolution goes in the direction of increased or decreased complexity. On the whole, the direction is to improvement. And that means complexity.

In unravelling the complexity we tend to solve the problems, and in this way we improve our own mental qualities and come under the spell of evolution. We create new conditions and then adjust ourselves accordingly. This applies with all living matter. But as head of a great family we give a guiding hand. We speed up evolution by heredity methodically applied.

New Strains

Organic evolution is a step by step change in a definite direction. It produces new forms of life, the ancestors of which were, in most cases, of simpler structure and behaviour. In the instances of degeneration the ancestors were not simpler, but the reverse. But on the whole life creeps upwards and reaches better types, more freedom and greater mastery.

When we study living species carefully, noting one character after another, we find there is often great variability. The members of a species seem at first practically identical, but many of them exhibit continual fluctua-

tions ; a little more of this, a little less of that. And these slight variations form part of the raw material of evolution. Occasionally there is something striking—a new form or a new “colour.” But far more important are the small variations, sometimes only noticeable to the experts.

It may be asked, is this variability leading to anywhere in the wild state? The answer is that many true breeding varieties are getting a grip, but, generally speaking, the novelties are short lived. A mutation comes about all at once, but it is rare and seldom meets a similar mate to perpetuate its kind. So it may take great length of time for the new strain to become a stable variety or species.

Man takes a hand. He works on the variable animal, one maybe which is particularly variable because of some complex multiple pedigree. Variations come along which seem to the fancier to be desirable. He pairs variants which are similar, and so starts a strain. He eliminates undesirables, brings similar forms together as pairs, and prevents inter-crossing with other strains. The strain, through guided family inbreeding, grows into a breed, and by careful selection the breed becomes a reliable race, in which like begets like, such as Blue Persians, Light Sussex fowls, Dutch rabbits, Shirley poppies, Black mice, and so on. It isn't that man creates, but just that he operates with the variations that occur.

With a knowledge of the fundamental laws of inheritance, the fancier is now able to speed up the evolution and produce the desired ends with some certainty, collecting and fixing one good quality after another into his stock. And in the end, a high standard of excellence may be reached, according to Fancy ideals.

There is always a danger that some attractive characteristic may be spoilt by a section of fanciers who for their own ends may breed to extremes. It may be that in gaining the end the animals produced will be delicate, dull-witted, even deformed and non-viable. There are cases where such types are almost cherished because they please the producers or their customers' perverted tastes. But these dysgenic products we are glad to forget when we see the large number of really fine and beautiful animals in their respective show rooms.

What has taken place during the domestication of small animals, more especially in connec-

tion with the fancier's activities, is similar to what has occurred in the wild, in the evolution of new species. Variations are sifted and separated. But the part that is played by the fancier is played in the wild by the struggle for existence, helped by isolation.

The reason why man can work more quickly than nature is because he can control pairings, prevent cross breeding, and extend a shield over small beginnings. He has complete control over form, colour and health, working all together to produce his ideal. But whatever man may do artificially in respect of type or colour, if the controlling hand is lifted and the animals produced are set at liberty to breed once more in their natural way, there comes about, in due course, a restoration of the original complexity.

In other words, the original type and colour is ultimately restored in the not far distant progeny.

(To be continued next month)

It takes all kinds to make a world. When the will of a St. Louis man was read it was disclosed that he had left a hundred thousand dollars for the sterilisation of dogs and cats. His "dream" was that all household pets should be so treated and exceptions were to be made in the case of animals belonging to breeders, who were to be licensed by the State.

Another item from America concerns a statement by James Paul, who has been observing cats for more than 40 years. Mr. Paul is convinced that whenever a cat washes its face with its left paw there will be a change in the weather in less than 12 hours. Which leads us to make the obvious comment that there must have been a whole lot of right-paw washing among British cats during the 1949 summer!

WHO'S WHO among the Breeders

MRS. E. TOWE

WITH the resumption of this popular series after a short break, we are pleased to introduce a personality in the British Cat Fancy whose name has been associated for a long time with an unusually wide range of activities. There are many, we know, who can point to a record of *longer* experience as Fanciers, but there are few who have devoted so much of their time to enthusiastic and impersonal effort for the common good.

Mrs. E. Towe, of Morden, Surrey, upon whom we throw a little limelight this month, will reveal in her interview below that she has been breeding cats seriously since 1936. She is "one of the few" who held on rather desperately during the war years. Since the war her Siamese with the prefix Hillcross have done remarkably well on the show bench and there is not the least doubt that more successes will come her way in the future. Her efforts to bring back some of the breed's declining type and character are particularly interesting.

It is to Mrs. Towe and her husband that the Croydon Cat Club must always be indebted. Their splendid team work—with Mrs. Towe as hon. Secretary and Mr. A. Towe as Show Manager—has made the Club one of the most popular and successful in the

country, and when the Championship Show comes to Town next month it will not be at all surprising if a record or two go by the board.

Mrs. Towe also looks after the secretarial duties for the Short-



BARNABAS OF CADEMUIR, bred by Mrs. Towe and owned by Miss Hill Shaw, handsome Siamese neuter who once figured in a television programme at Alexandra Palace.

haired Cat Society of Great Britain and is, we think, to be congratulated upon doing a fine job of work all round. The Towses have a wide circle of friends among whom they are esteemed for their sincerity and dependability.

"I have always had cats," revealed Mrs. Towe to OUR CATS interviewer, "and I can't remem-

ber ever being without a Black Shorthair. But in 1936 I realised an ambition of many years standing and acquired my first Siamese kitten. Chota Ranee—that was her name—was born on Coronation Day in May of that year. She was a daughter of Hoveton Emperor and a granddaughter of Ch. Pita. As I knew nothing of strains and pedigrees in those

“ In 1942 I acquired two more Siamese from the well-known pre-war breeder, Mrs. Gunn. They were Holmesdale Souriya and her 8 months old daughter who was subsequently registered as Hillcross Fidelia. Although Renee and Souriya have gone to the happy hunting grounds, I now have their daughters and granddaughters, and they are proving



Two youngsters from one of Mrs. Towe's mixed litters of Blacks and Siamese. Type and character are strongly evident in the Black kitten.

days, I realise now how fortunate I was to be able to start with such a well-bred kitten from Miss F. A. Dixon's reputable stock.

“ Ranee—we called her Renee—had many lovely kittens, mostly males. But owing to the war, all were neutered. I am very pleased, however, that I have her last and almost only daughter, Hillcross Lan Yenching, who has also thrown some nice kittens, but mostly females.

every bit as good as their forbears.

“ Fidelia is a well-known cat. She is over 9 years old now but is still very handsome, retaining her light coat and good eye colour. She has had many grand kittens and some of them have been good winners at the post-war shows. Hillcross Bhoidheach, for instance, was Best Kitten and Best Shorthair Exhibit at the first show after the war.

But owing to the war, most of Fidelia's best progeny were neutered.

"Any success I have achieved with my cattery has been built up on the solid foundation laid by Renee and Souriya. The last-named had glorious blue eyes of a depth I have never seen excelled in a female. Sapphire, a granddaughter now nearly 3 years old, inherits this quality.

"Now one is able to look back over those terrible war years, I sometimes wonder what made me 'carry on.' Breeding was not easy and twice our house was wrecked in the raids. Each time the cats and kittens escaped injury but I did lose one neuter during a raid in 1940. Many times I thought it would be a humane act to have them all put to sleep, especially as the nearest vet. was in London and that meant a long journey by Underground if treatment was needed. Then there was the lasting problem of food.

"I spent many, many weary hours searching and queueing from 1940 to 1944. During this period I always had eight or nine cats but fortunately they all kept very healthy. So I held on to my interest and eventually came through the war with the two strains well established.

"In 1942 I rescued a 3-day-old Black female kitten from a watery grave. Its mother was a well-known Siamese, the sire a Short-hair Black. My Fidelia was nursing some kittens at the time



HILLCROSS SHENG, a well-known stud, winner of many awards including special for best-shaped eyes.

so I put the little black stranger in with them. Fidelia took to it at once and indeed grew to care for it more than for her own kittens.

"The little Black was christened Dinah and she grew into a very handsome cat, jet black with yellow eyes, but all Siamese in type and character. She eventually had several mixed litters of black kittens and Seal Pointed Siamese. I didn't keep any of the Seal Points as all had jade green eyes. But Peggy arrived—and she was a lovely Black with stronger Siamese characteristics than those possessed by her mother.

"Peggy in turn had several litters of mixed Blacks and Siamese and the latter were all males. But last year she pro-

"I would like to see many more of that lovely breed, the Silver Tabby," says Mrs. Towe.

Here is her own representative Champion **HILLCROSS SILVER LADY.**

(Photograph by Mary H. Verity.)



duced a Seal Pointed female of good type and with really good blue eyes from a mating with a cat imported from Siam. This kitten, Pippa, will soon be having her first litter. By this means I hope to introduce new blood into the Siamese, which are, in my opinion, becoming too inbred. The experiment I have undertaken needs careful control. It has taken me seven years to reach the third generation and I never part with a cross-bred kitten before it is neutered. The interesting point is that the Black kittens are of better type than the Siamese Seal Points; they are also very intelligent and great hunters who can catch a bird in flight.

"Breeding is great fun although, of course, beginners

should be warned not to expect 'roses all the way.' They should realise, too, that breeding cats must inevitably have its setbacks and disappointments and that it provides no golden road to a sure and steady income. But they will find compensations in an absorbing interest and new friends and acquaintances. In my own early days, I received much help and encouragement from Miss Hill Shaw, now President of the Croydon Club, and Miss Dixon has also been very kind in a variety of ways."

STOP PRESS! Winner of the Open Male Adult class at the recent Siamese Cat Club Show was Hillcross Song, shown by Mrs. Druce and bred by Mrs. Towe. Our article has therefore proved prophetic!

Cat Diseases Identified

By FORCEPS

(Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons)

PEOPLE who have not studied pathology and bacteriology nearly always, in their own minds, tend to oversimplify illnesses caused by germs. They expect an illness to be clear-cut, with its own set of symptoms—differing conveniently from every other set of symptoms (!) ; due to a single cause ; and never occurring simultaneously with any other illness. But, alas! Nature does not work like that.

A symptom, or a group of symptoms, may be common to more than one disease. And as all the symptoms do not, in any case, appear all at once, diagnosis often presents a pretty problem. Moreover, more than one germ may attack the body at the same time. Thus, a virus may set up disease and be joined by bacteria who take advantage of the situation as "secondary invaders" and cause complications—or what may virtually be one illness superimposed upon another.

Sometimes bacteria, visible under the microscope, have been isolated from cases of a given illness and have been assumed to be wholly responsible for it ; while all the time, lurking beyond

the range of human sight and of the ordinary microscope, has been a virus. And yet again, what has been thought to be one virus has sometimes turned out to be two, each with its differing effects and idiosyncrasies.

The result of all this has been that some similar but distinct illnesses have tended to be lumped together under one heading. Research, on the other hand, is gradually enabling us to split some of these groups into their component parts. This is what has happened with cat distemper. We can now, as Mr. W. L. Weipers pointed out at the recent International Veterinary Congress, distinguish more or less accurately :

(1) **Cat influenza or cat distemper**—a virus disease, symptoms of which are comparatively seldom seen except in catteries, where a rapidly spreading outbreak soon occurs. It starts with sneezing and develops as a snuffly cold. Pneumonia may occur, and occasionally enteritis (probably in this case the virus of (2) is also present). Cat 'flu is like a cold with us—two or even three attacks may occur in a single year.

(2) **Infectious enteritis**, or, as the Americans call it, **agranulocytosis**. This causes more deaths among cats than any other disease, killing about eight out of every ten. In some parts of the United Kingdom it is almost impossible to keep cats, with the result that rats and mice have greatly increased in numbers.

Cats which have recovered from infectious enteritis are usually immune for life. The illness begins with a high fever, prostration, loss of weight and vomiting. (Round worms are often vomited—a fact which leads many people to believe that worms are the cause of the trouble.) The cat seeks cold places in which to lie, and crouches in pain—a distressing sight, as owners will agree. In many cases there is neither diarrhoea nor any bowel movement at all.

There is good reason to believe

that this disease is caused by (a) another virus (not the cat 'flu one), and (b) by beta-haemolytic streptococci.

Probably related to infectious enteritis, and possibly caused by the virus alone, is (3) an **ulcerating condition of the tongue**, which will be described in these pages later on.

The last-named trouble is more painful than dangerous, and usually responds quickly to treatment. Cat 'flu is the bugbear of the cattery, but not of the home. A preventative is badly needed for infectious enteritis, but this will probably have to wait until scientists have perfected a technique for growing the virus in eggs. To end on a note of optimism, however, let me say that penicillin and the new sulpha ("M. and B.") drugs appear to have saved many lives.

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Show Success in the South West

AT Torquay, on a late September eve, a little band of enthusiasts wended their various ways homewards feeling very tired but justifiably pleased with their day's work. They had staged the first post-war cat show in the West Country and achieved a measure of success well beyond their most sanguine expectations.

For some weeks previous the South-Western Counties Cat Club had been actively preparing for the important day under the able direction of their Show Secretary, Miss J. F. Cathcart, who has worked so enthusiastically since the war to revive interest in that part of the country. Miss Bate was an efficient Show Manager and the Rev. Preb. R. L. Collins presided over what had clearly been some well-directed Committee work. Every opportunity for publicity was seized and used to full advantage—radio, press and posters.

The hall available was not a big one. It was situated up a quiet side road not far from the town's centre and the 300 entries (100 exhibits) filled it comfortably. The attendance—other show organisers please note!—was over 1,200 and the takings were well over £70. Admission was a modest 2s. or 1s., according to time of arrival, with half-price for children. Altogether, a result to enthuse over.

The outstanding exhibit was Mrs. C. M. Mitchell's Blue Longhair kitten Trenton John Willie, which, at only 5 months old, notched a whole string of successes, including Best Exhibit, Best Kitten and several firsts and specials. John Willie's career will be followed with interest as he is a kitten of great promise. Sire is Oxleys Peter John.

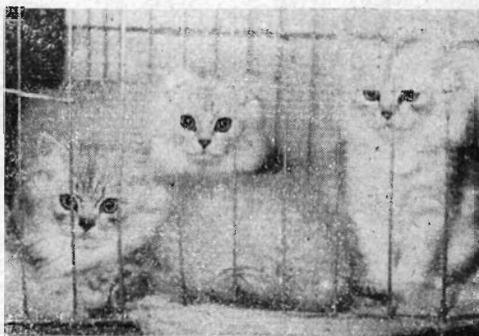
Another fine cat was the Siamese Slades Cross Sonah, adjudged best



Mrs. Woodall with her prizewinning Cream Longhair DEEBANK MOLLIE.

of its variety, shown well by Mrs. Taylor, of Bradford-on-Tone. The classes for Household, Shop and Office Pets did not fill too well and deserved better support. Judges for the day were Mrs. Sampson, Miss Grundy and Mr. B. A. Stirling-Webb.

By way of postscript to the Show, Miss Cathcart spoke over the air in the Western Regional Programme of the B.B.C., and Capt. Powell, a valiant worker for the Club, told listeners a few interesting things about the behaviour of his pet Siamese stud Slades Cross Wong, who enjoys hunting expeditions whilst on a long lead. Well done, S.W.C.C.C.!



Photos by Happy Snaps, Torquay

Winners in the Kindergarten Class—Mrs. Dyer's lovely trio of Chinchilla Kittens, under 3 months.



“ Half a pint ? What’s the good of half a pint to four hungry kittens ? ”

This amusing cartoon from the popular “London Laughs” series by Lee is reproduced by kind permission of “The Evening News.”

A Famous Cat Lover tells you about his

One and Four

THE name of Beverley Nichols would be an automatic choice for any short list of prominent cat lovers. Indeed, he is fully entitled to a place of honour among the first half-dozen well-known men and women who are internationally recognised as sincere and enthusiastic champions of their feline friends. None is more ready at all times to enter the lists on their behalf and there are few who can preach our cause more effectively and to a larger audience.

Mr. Nichols contributes an interesting weekly feature under the title of "My World" in the popular periodical "Woman's Own." Just pause for a moment to reflect upon the significance of this—nearly 3,000,000 women readers buy this periodical each week! Here in this feature Mr. Nichols occasionally reveals his experiences in what he describes as "the mysterious and enchanting world of the cat." A short time back his feature page was one of special interest to cat lovers since it covered the story of his own pets and gave intimate little details of the important part they play within the circle of home life in his delightful Surrey residence.

Mr. Nichols confesses that he is no good at inventing names for his pets, so his first cat was christened One, which after all sounds well enough for a Siamese.

"I called him One for several reasons," explains Mr. Nichols. "Partly because all his parents, grandparents and great grand-

parents had such high-falutin' names that I thought he might get a swollen head if he was called after them. . . . So he just got a number instead of a name. The other reason he was called One was because I love cats and I hope to have a lot more. . . . I never know when there may be a new arrival. I might go out



Beverley Nichols with his pet One.

to-night and hear a plaintive mew in a dark street, and find it came from some half-starved little bundle of fur that purred ecstatically when you picked it up. When that happens, if you are a cat lover, you're lost."

Mr. Nichols's other pet is Four—Two and Three having succumbed to attacks of feline sickness. Four is "jet black, with enormous eyes, the colour of creme-de-menthe. He has a coat as lustrous as the petals of a pansy, and a very soft, very high

issue of "The Countryman" that a cat stole some of her tomatoes and in doing so showed a preference for yellow ones. One morning, she says, a yellow tomato was missing from a dish which had contained two red and two yellow tomatoes standing next to a large bowl of red ones. A few days later the cat took the second yellow fruit and made no attempt to touch the red.

Another contributor to this popular quarterly reports that friends of his keep two cats. Since fruit is grown, marauding birds are occasionally

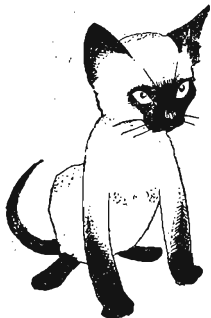
shot. The cats follow immediately the gun leaves the house. They have no gun shyness and retrieve the shot birds without attempting to eat them.

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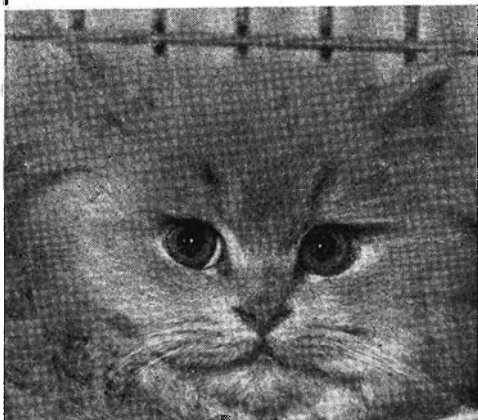
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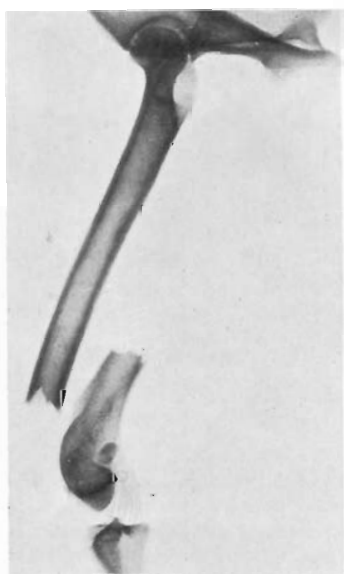
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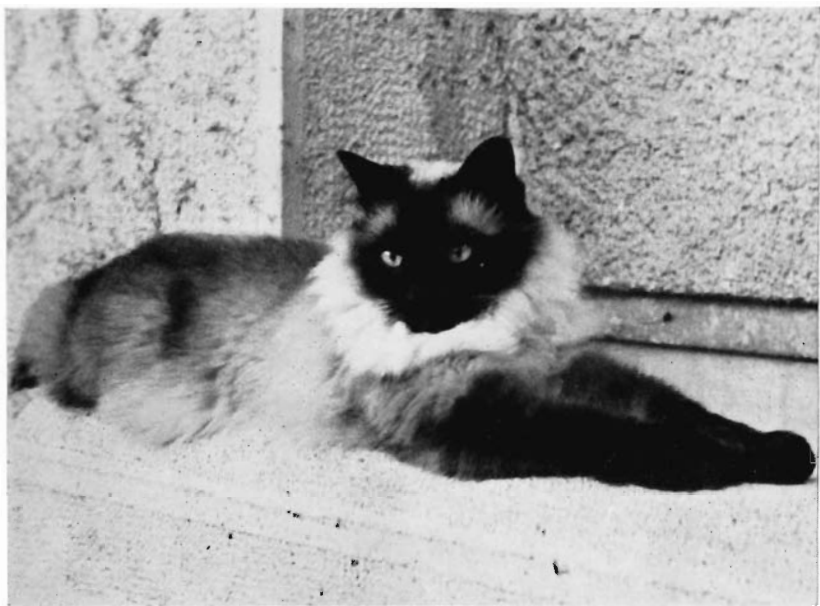


Dr. Moltzen Nielsen, of Copenhagen, performing a bone pinning operation on a Siamese cat which had sustained a bad fracture of the leg. The smaller photographs show (left) an X-ray of the actual fracture and (right) its repair by the insertion through the centre of the bone of a pointed stainless steel pin. This interesting development in modern veterinary science was more fully described by our contributor "Forceps" in last month's issue. It is enabling seriously injured cats to be restored to health and activity in a way undreamed of a few years ago.



Photograph by John Birkett

SOOTY, six weeks old kitten belonging to Mr. L. G. Todd, of Slough, Bucks, is having her first exciting day out in the world of humans. Our picture shows her on the last stage of her journey by train and bicycle from Croydon to Slough, wide-eyed with all the strange things she has seen but comfortably settled in the string bag on the cycle carrier. When our photographer asked Sooty how she liked the journey, he was greeted with a tiny miaow which appeared to indicate that she liked best the bit through Hyde Park where she saw the trees and the birds.



This picture is both interesting and controversial. **PRINCE RIQUET** is that rarity—a Longhair Siamese. He has the blue eyes and colouring of the breed and is undoubtedly a very striking and unusual cat. Born in 1941, he is the property of Mme. Alice Viotta, of Montreux, Switzerland.



Photo by Presse Diffusion

Here is another Swiss cat, a remarkably fine representative of a variety that is all too scarce in England. **XAMI DU LÉMAN** is a Smoke Longhair belonging to the prominent Swiss Fancier, Mlle. C. Perrin, of Lausanne. Note how the dark and light points appear in the right places.

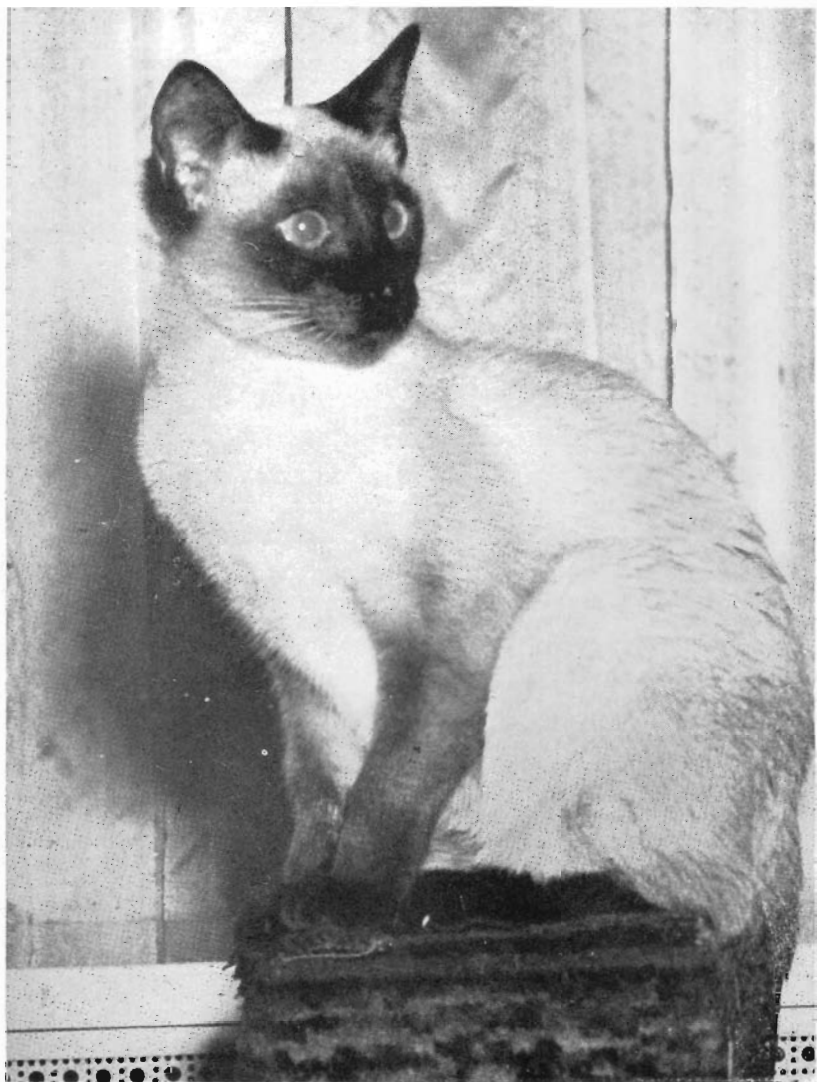


Photo by Charles F. McGrath

ALL AMERICAN CHAMPION ?

Here is a candidate for the coveted honour of All American Cat of the Year. This award is the grand finale of the season in the United States and it goes to the cat which has secured most points in competition. The Siamese female in our picture is a strong nominee for the 1949 title, as she has won her way through as representative of the Eastern States. She is **DONERAILE DRUSILLA**, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sven Nelson, of Braintree, Mass., and bred and exported from England by our well-known Siamese breeder, Mrs. Kathleen R. Williams, of Sutton, Surrey. Drusilla, born in 1947, is by Doneraile Sutra ex Doneraile Debutante. We are sorry it was necessary to abbreviate this lovely lady's tail—it just goes on and on and is just about the finest tail we have seen in any picture of the breed.

Some Skin Troubles

I HAVE heard so much recently about skin troubles with both cats and kittens that an article on this subject may prove helpful. Before I really get down to the subject, however, I must express a few words of warning.

It is quite useless for the novice to expect to be able to diagnose accurately any unusual skin condition which may appear in his stock. By all means treat a condition when you feel sure that you know the cause, but unless the response to this treatment is rapid the only thing to do is to call in the vet.

Ringworm in the cat must always be regarded as serious, but it would be wrong to regard it as impossible of cure. In fact, I know of one case which occurred only a few months ago where a complete cure was achieved although the animal had undoubtedly been suffering from the trouble for a considerable time.

Ringworm is often difficult to diagnose and it is not unusual for a human in the household to show signs of the trouble before the cat has become suspect. This fact need cause no undue alarm as in humans the infected patch is almost invariably confined to the arm. Small patches on the skin of the cat, which are covered by ash-like scales and round which appear hairs broken off short, arouse suspicions, but these signs, either separately or to-

gether, cannot be regarded as conclusive proof.

There is only one place in which ringworm can be proved and that is in the laboratory. The use of an ultra-violet lamp with a Wood's glass may resolve the doubt, for hairs infected with the spores of the fungus which causes the trouble will fluoresce. Even this method of testing, however, is by no means infallible, for things other than the spores of ringworm will show fluorescence under the lamp. It may be that ointments previously used on the affected part will produce the same effect. On the other hand, if the infection is only slight there may be no apparent fluorescence.

Thus a second check is necessary. This is carried out by attempting to grow the spores on a specially prepared culture. If after about ten days the laboratory reports that there are no signs of ringworm in the specimen submitted, you can rest assured that your cat has a clean bill of health.

A specimen, by the way, is a scraping of the skin taken from the affected area. The laboratory will never tell you that your cat is not suffering from ringworm, but will confine its report to the specimen submitted. You need lose no sleep on this account, however.

About a year ago I had a scare with my own cats, and several of them were tested in this way. In

this case ringworm first appeared on a human and naturally the animals became suspect. Every cat was carefully examined and two of them certainly showed skin affections which might have been ringworm. The tests which I have outlined were carried out, and to my intense relief proved negative.

While waiting for the laboratory report my one consolation was that neither of the dogs showed the slightest sign of the complaint. For any ordinary person that would have been an infallible proof, but then I am not ordinary. Even when the report from the laboratory arrived I was not satisfied, as by this time two other people had been treated for ringworm. I solved the problem eventually by finding the human being who was the undoubted cause of all the trouble. I think this story has a moral if you can find it.

Try Diet Change

I was truly thankful that my animals escaped, but during the period of the scare I found out so much about ringworm that I should not fear it so much in future. If you are ever in doubt you must consult your vet., and should he not be "well up" in cats he can always refer to the Royal Veterinary College.

All this, however, had not settled the question as to why two of my cats had skin trouble even if it was nothing serious.

The answer was, I think, that it was just after the hot spell in May last year. In hot weather, or more likely shortly after it, an unsatisfactory blood condition is likely to occur. Neither of these cats had any treatment apart from a temporary change of diet, and in a week or two all was well.

The cure may seem very simple, but it is one which is often worthwhile during the summer. A change of diet with a definite reduction in the starchy content of the food often has a marked effect both on the skin and consequently on the coat of the cat. We realise, of course, that for most of us the feeding of our animals is still a problem and we are frequently compelled to feed in a way which we know is not entirely satisfactory.

Furless Kittens

That brings me on to a skin trouble which may occur in kittens. Twice during recent years I have had minor skin trouble with litters of kittens which could only be attributed to the condition of the parents, and much more likely the mother.

In the first case, when the kittens were only a few days old, they started to lose their coats, and within a short time were almost bare except for a little fur remaining on their heads. To say the least of it, this was alarming.

The vet. suggested that the cause was probably some deficiency in the mother's milk. Quantity was adequate and its nutritional value was obviously good, as apart from loss of hair the whole family was flourishing. One drop of halibut oil was prescribed for each kitten daily, to be increased after four days to two and then after a similar period to three drops. This treatment was given with no ill effects which would almost certainly have followed had the kittens not been feeding from their mother.

Very soon the hair started to grow again and at eight weeks visitors remarked on the profusion of coat in this little family. The

part which Vitamin D plays in the internal economy of the cat is difficult to assess, but these kittens certainly flourished on a dose which was undoubtedly large.

Similar treatment has also been given to kittens which have developed small scabs on their skin when only a few weeks old. I have bought kittens which have shown signs of this trouble, and over the last year or two I have had two litters which have developed this condition when they were only about three weeks old. An interesting fact that I have noticed is that it has never occurred in shorthaired kittens, but I cannot say whether this is general.

Here again halibut oil was used in more moderate doses for the

kittens and careful attention was paid to the diet of the mother. If one bears in mind the fact that the kitten may need those elements of diet which are necessary for the human body, the chances are that trouble will be avoided.

A huddled mass of kittens on several thicknesses of blanket may sweat so much that unsatisfactory conditions are produced in the box. If you do get some slight skin trouble in your kittens you might also try better ventilation without draught and newspaper instead of blanket.

May you have no such troubles ever, but if you escape completely you will be more than lucky.

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KEEP CATS KITTENISH



"litter \ brother of Widdington Wintersweet." They are full brother and sister, but Wincette was born in 1946 and Wintersweet in 1948.

A young newcomer, Mr. Brook, was first in Blue kittens with Idmiston Daydreams, a kitten I admired very much at Sandy. Welcome to Mr. Brook!

Best Adult Siamese was Mrs. Duncan Hindley's male Prestwick Penglima Pertama and the Championship winner in females was Mr. Stirling-Webb's Briarry Sampan, a cat excelling in lovely body colour and all her points seal, especially commendable on paws, which are often too pale nowadays. Best Shorthair Exhibit was Mrs. Bridgford's Red Rivoli Robin.

A fine collection of neuters had a room to themselves upstairs. I noticed Miss Crosher's winning Blue Longhair Vagabond of Knott Hall was particularly well shown and such a lovely colour. Mrs. Gladstone's Siamese Muang Alpha was awarded the Premier in Siamese Neuters and Miss German in Shorthairs with her Russian Blue Dunloe Pavlovitch. Mrs. Una May's Dingle Shah, an adorable fellow, was also a winner.

The classification was generous and 113 special prizes were offered, so let us hope this is a prelude to many more happy Herts and Middlesex shows.

22nd September. Left Victoria for Switzerland to judge the International Championship Cat Show, to be held on Saturday and Sunday in Montreux.

23rd September. Arrived at Lausanne about 8 a.m., to find Mme. Bridgett, President of the Cat Club de Paris, and Mlle. Perrin, President of the Cat Club Vaudois, awaiting me. After our greetings I set off alone to the Hotel des Palmiers, Montreux. At the reception office found a booklet, "Events of the

Week," and on the cover a lovely photograph of a White cat advertising the Show venue and details. As these booklets were distributed freely, especially in hotels, they were a splendid advertisement. From my bedroom a glorious view of Lake Geneva and over the water the Dents du Midi very imposing and serene.

24th September. A lovely, warm, sunny day, and across the road to the Casino, where I found 88 cats and kittens awaiting me to judge. A ballroom facing the Lake with perfect light on the judging table made it an ideal venue. Everyone very busy when I arrived at 10 a.m., the exhibitors giving last-minute touches to their cats. An assistant on a ladder was hanging the flags of all nations represented at the Show—England, France, Switzerland, Holland and Italy—a graceful gesture typical of Continental hospitality and thoughtfulness.

About 11 a.m. commenced judging with three very capable and willing stewards, Mme. Monnier, Mlle. Coste and Mr. Mannes, to whom I owe much gratitude for their help during a very busy day. The principal awards were: Best Exhibit in Show, Mlle. Chamonin's Blue male International Champion Talisman de la Chesnaie, a very lovely cat excelling in type, coat, condition, and beautifully presented. His coat was a pale medium shade and very fine in texture. Best opposite sex was Mlle. Perrin's exquisite orange-eyed White Int. Ch. Trésor Blanc-du-Léman, who had an exceptionally long pure coat of finest texture, short tail, well-balanced head, small, well-placed ears, broad muzzle, good chin and a sweet expression. The other female competing for this honour was Mlle. Bonnardot's exquisite Blue-Cream Ch. Vivette de Mont-az-ah, Best Cat in Show this summer at the Paris Show and also at Milan. She is an equally lovely cat but she was

not yet so far advanced in winter coat as Mlle. Perrin's White. I admire both cats very much.

Best Shorthair exhibit, Mr. Bon de Souza Perne's Siamese Mustansir, a good all-round adult male with deep blue eyes, a long whip tail and the short, fine coat which the standard demands. I was very interested to find after the judging that he was by Mrs. Towe's late stud, Hillcross Sheng, and imported from England. Best Chinchilla, Mme. Cordey's Tikita de la Chesnaie, a lovely female excelling in type with glorious large

(3) Trenton Columbine, bred by Mr. Harrington-Harvard.

M. Audétat's male Xegrato de Haute Roche was Best Black Longhair, yet another cat with lovely head and type. Mme. Curchod, Secretary and Treasurer of the Club, was awarded first three places with her Cream males, the first being Waldor du Léman, who was cream to the roots and excelled in eye colour and head. She also won in females with Xerès de Valrive and in Cream kittens with Yola de Valrive and Ysis de Valrive.

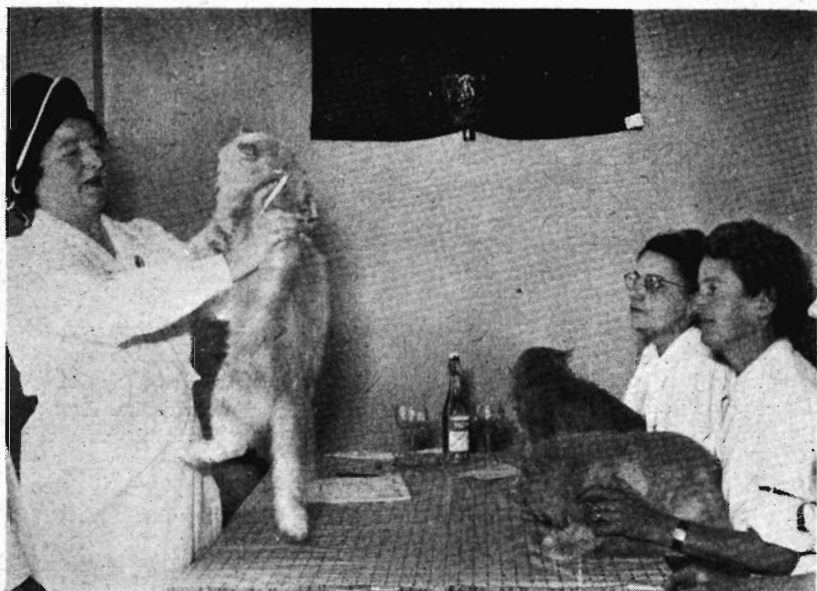


Photo by Presse Diffusion

Mrs. Joan Thompson judging Cream entries at the Swiss Show at Montreux.

brilliant green eyes. Mlle. Perrin exhibited a male Smoke, Xami du Léman, also excelling in type, eye colour and length of coat, which was beautifully contrasted. Mlle. Perrin won first three places with her adult Blue females, all bred in England. They are:

(1) Marianne of Allington, bred by Miss Langston.

(2) Souvenir Mignonette, bred by Miss Cottell, and

I was very interested in the Tabby presented by Mme. Sandoz. This cat, Nélia du Léman, started life as a Brown Tabby and was entered as such, but gradually changed her ground colour to silver with tinges of cream. On account of her very good head, type, eyes and markings I awarded her first, but withheld the Championship certificate.

Best kitten was a Blue Longhair owned by Mme. Fuchs, President of

the Cat Club de Bienne. This little gem excelled in all-round quality and was by the Best Cat in Show, Int. Ch. Talisman de la Chesnaie. A close runner-up was yet another wonderful White, Yoline du Léman, by the famous Int. Ch. Pigeon du Léman, himself the winner of the Challenge Certificate for orange-eyed Whites, also the winner of the stud class with remarkable progeny—Whites, Smokes, Silver Tabbies, all adult winners in open classes.

Breeders will be interested to hear that Ch. Pigeon (Best Cat in Show under me at Yverdon last November) is by Int. Ch. Kisme du Léman (Blue male) and a White female, Int. Ch. Incents Primevère, bred in England by the late Mrs. Newman. Mme. Cordey's Smoke and Blue Chinchilla neuters, and Mme. Béard's and Mme. Brun's neuters were superb and all had long flowing coats.

A Longhair Siamese, Prince Riquet, was brought by his owner, Mme. Alice Viotta, for me to judge, but I regretted I could not do so as in England we have no standard for this variety. He was in lovely condition and obviously a great pet.

One thing which struck me was how docile and sweet-tempered the cats were. Several had harness and leads after the judging, and the winning Siamese male Mustansir reposed plus lead on his young owner's shoulder and from time to time told us in true Siamese fashion it was time to go home. With only a short break for lunch at the table I judged all day, but ceased at dusk as it is not fair to exhibitors to judge by artificial light.

On the ground floor of the Casino many were playing roulette and as a diversion came up to see the cats; 1,400 persons paid for admission, the entrance fee being 1 Swiss franc 75 centimes. Spectators started to arrive before judging on Saturday and a steady stream persisted until Sunday

evening. It probably seems a long Show by English standards, but the pace is fairly leisurely and the whole affair is organised as a spectacle. The setting was lovely and my memories are beautiful cats, glorious flowers, sunshine and perfect lighting. Last, but not least, a sporting acceptance of awards by exhibitors.

25th September. Judging until about 11.30, early lunch, and then Mme. Bridgett and myself examined Mr. Mannes (Holland) for his judge's certificate, which he passed with flying colours.

After that tea and relaxation, and later back to Lausanne with exhibitors and cats. Visited Mlle. Perrin and discussed pros and cons of Show, finally back to my hotel, where I had leisure to study catalogue, and so to bed about 2 a.m.

27th September. Tea at La Prairie with Mme. Gibbon, her daughter Liseron and Mme. Bridgett. Mme. Gibbon first became well known to English cat breeders when she purchased the Blue female, born in 1933, Ch. Dewdrop of Dunesk, by Ch. Mischief of Bredon, from Mrs. Brunton. This lovely cat probably proved an inspiration, as since then Mme. Gibbon has always been associated with cats of outstanding quality and refinement.

In all the 25 years I have been associated with cats I have never seen so many glorious specimens in the possession of one owner at the same time. Int. Ch. Southway Nicholas is as lovely as ever and his coat sound and a nice length for the time of year. A fine young son of his will be just ready to take his sire's place when the time comes for him to rest on his laurels. Int. Ch. Priory Blue Wish (bred by Mrs. Davies) was in fine condition. She is a superb queen. I have always been interested in her as she is a female I nearly purchased myself as a baby kitten. The only

thing which deterred me was the fact that we were having air raids at the time. Some of the exceptional Blue queens, the majority with lovely copper eyes, will eventually make their bow at shows.

The Chinchillas, a variety we particularly associate with Mme. Gibbon, were a show in themselves and in many cases are descendants of Mrs. Hesketh's Fernleigh Chinchillas, who were bred from Ch. Thistle-down Carus and Ch. Matthew of Greengables, the latter by Ch. Desmond of Allington. The Creams purchased from Mrs. Sheppard have come up to expectations and one has Championship status written all over her.

A glorious White female, White Heather du Léman (bred by Mlle. Perrin), is another potential Champion and has the ethereal length and texture of coat typical of this owner's Whites.

I was completely captivated by a Tortoiseshell which I consider to be one of the best post-war Torties I have seen. Her colouring is brilliant and the three colours so well broken on her head, ears, feet and tail, places where one frequently sees black, red or cream predominating. Her head and type are lovely and glorious eyes complete the picture.

The White Ch. Wotan, now thirteen, was looking very well. Mme. Bridgett's Int. Ch. Idmiston Champagne is also fit and well. I think her most idolised cat is René de Valescure. He is fed piece by piece, but the joke is that once when Mme. Bridgett was away Mme. Gibbon was following instructions to do this, when the electric light failed. Whilst this was being attended to René gobbled up his supper, so now he is viewed with suspicion. He walked round the garden with us in harness and a lead very demurely and grumbled mightily when we turned round to go home. Mme. Bridgett says his one ambition is to kill a

Chinchilla, hence the collar and lead, as several were running about in the large garden. All the cats were in good condition and beautifully groomed. Mme. Gibbon and Mme. Bridgett are very generous patrons of the Fancy on the Continent and in England, and many of their lovely special prizes have been won by English exhibitors.

28th September. Another sunny day and by steamer to the Castle of Chillon with Mlle. Perrin and Mr. and Mrs. Mannes. Very interesting, and had an irrelevant thought of how consoling it would have been if the prisoners in the gloomy dungeons could have had a cat for companionship. In the evening to dine with Mme. Curchod and her daughter Georgette. Very interested in their lovely cats, all in such good form and winners of many first prizes.

30th September. Arrived home with happy memories to find much correspondence. A copy of the American magazine, "All Pets," interested me very much. The September issue specially featured birds, but there are twelve pages devoted to cats. An article by our Miss K. Yorke, on "Preparation for Show," and the children's corner conducted by Mr. Soderberg were delightful.

In a totally different category one reads "The Truth about Fleas." I wish every cat breeder could read

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Championship Show in Birmingham
October 27th, 1949

this as knowledge of the life cycle of fleas would enable them to realise the importance of absolute cleanliness in the housing and bedding of cats. Apropos fleas, I hear excellent reports of Lorexane dusting powder, which is quite harmless.

The October issue of "All Pets" magazine will have a larger section than usual about cats and some famous English cats will be represented by photographs.

"All Pets" is published by Mr. Frank E. Dittrich, P.O. Box 151, or 18 Forest Avenue, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

From Australia comes "The Herald," dated 25th June, with an account of the Melbourne Cat Club Show. The judge, Mr. Pearce, flew from New South Wales to officiate. I wonder if this is the Mr. Pearce who spent two summers in England before the war, when he visited several English breeders and attended our Shows? I met Mr. and Mrs. Pearce several times. They purchased a fruit farm in Kent but could not endure our variable climate. A photograph of Mrs. R. Price's Blue Persian Champion My Pet appears and the caption reads: "Was it derision that made her poke out her tongue at Melbourne Town Hall?"

Let's go to a Show

Brief details of the various Cat Shows which are fixed to take place during the 1949/50 Season are given below for the information and guidance of our readers. We shall present more detailed information from time to time as it becomes available. Make a point this time of attending as many Shows as you can. There is no better place at which to make friends and to pick up useful points about cats, their breeding and management.

1949			
27 October	...	*The Midland Counties Cat Club	Birmingham
10 November	...	*Croydon Cat Club (See Advertisement)	London
19 November	...	Scottish Cat Club	Glasgow
1 December	...	Folkestone Show	Folkestone
6 December	...	*National Cat Club	London
1950			
9 January	...	*Notts and Derby Cat Club	Nottingham
21 January	...	The Lancs and North Western Counties Cat Club	Manchester
23 January	...	*Southern Counties Cat Club	London

* Denotes Shows with Championship status.

All fanciers should read

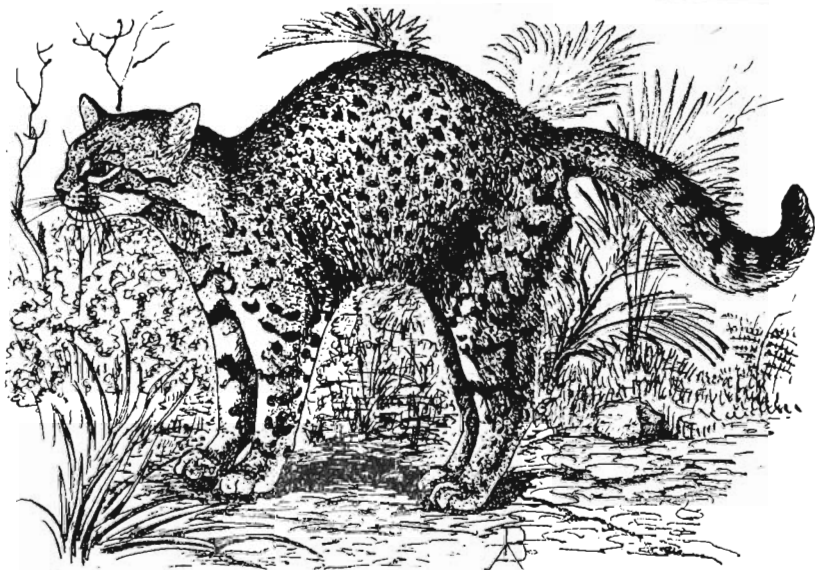
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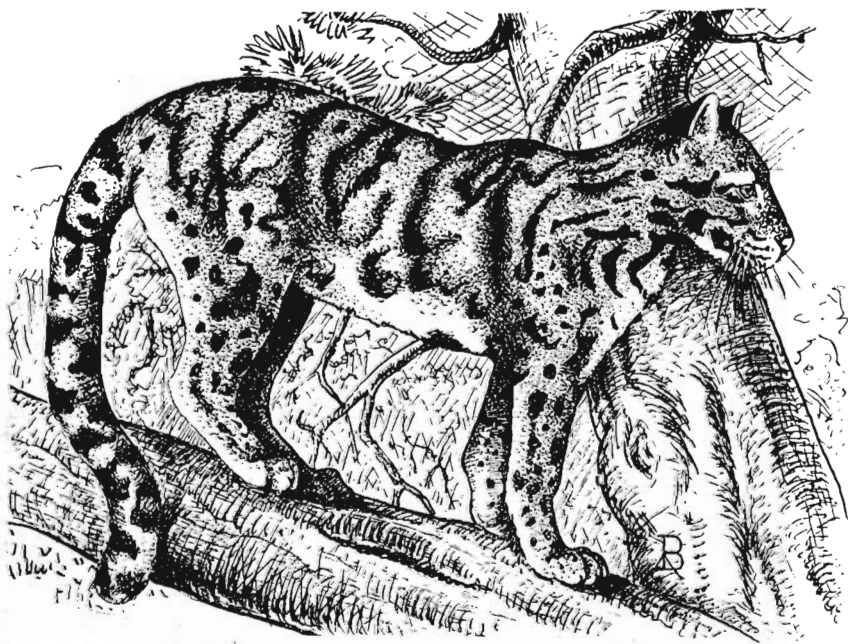
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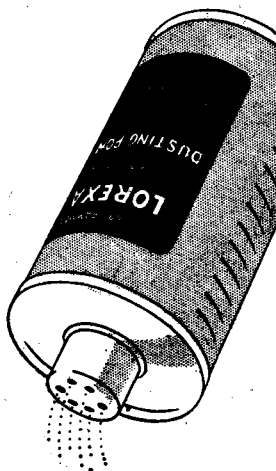
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Further particulars from the Show Manager :

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EDITORIAL NOTE : Our front cover photograph this month is of SOUVENIR SOVEREIGN, lovely Blue Longhair kitten bred by Miss Cottell and exported to Canada. Correspondence Corner and other features are held over because of pressure on our space.

To the Children

From Uncle Peter

Boys and Girls

Thank you, Wendy Stuart, for your letter and the poem about your cat, Tiger Lily Smut. Unfortunately space is so short that it is not possible to print the poem, but I was pleased to receive it.

As you know, I spent quite a long time in Italy this summer and while there I was very interested in the animals I saw. Cats and dogs seemed to have quite happy lives, but I was very sorry for the horses and donkeys who usually had to pull loads far too heavy for them. Their owners were thoughtless rather than intentionally cruel.

Do you know that all dogs in Italy have to be muzzled when they are out in the street? They do, and if you forget to put the muzzle on your dog and the policeman catches you the fine is about a pound. The reason for this is the terrible disease called rabies, which can be passed on to human beings if they are bitten by a dog who is suffering from the disease. Sometimes, but not often, fortunately, cats also develop rabies. That is why cats and dogs which are imported into England from foreign countries have to spend six months in quarantine.

When I returned from my holiday I wondered if my cats would be pleased to see me. They may have been pleased, but if they were they did not show it. Sally, the golden cocker, went almost mad with excitement, but the cats just curled themselves round my legs as if I had just been down to the village and back.

Have you ever kept a chameleon? I should very much like to have one, and I have written to a friend of mine in Madagascar in the hope that he will send one.

While I was on holiday I became very good friends with a chameleon because I used to catch flies and put them in his cage. What a tongue! Like a flash of lightning out came a long tongue and the fly had disappeared.

Nature has given the chameleon the ability to change its colour as a protection against being spotted by its enemies. The colour changes according to the background against which the creature is resting and sometimes it is very difficult to find when in the branches of a tree. It cannot turn a bright red or a vivid blue, but the colour of leaves and bark are quite common changes. If you cannot keep a chameleon yourself you certainly ought to look at one in a Zoo.

Now, to finish, I have a special piece of news for your diary. On 4th December, at 1.10 p.m. on the Home Service programme, you can hear Uncle Peter. There will be some weird and wonderful noises, so make sure that your cat is also listening. I shall want to know what he thinks about it all. Oh, no, the squalls and yowls will not be made by me.

Uncle Peter

Your replies to Uncle Peter should be addressed to OUR CATS Magazine, 4 Carlton Mansions, Clapham Road, London, S.W.9. Please remember to write "Uncle Peter" at the top left-hand corner of your envelope.

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